

11th Arctic Ungulate Conference (AUC)

The 11th Arctic Ungulate Conference (AUC) was organised by the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (RKTL) in Saariselkä, in the Heart of Lapland, Finland, 24-28 August 2003. The conference continued a series of ten conferences devoted to Arctic Ungulates, including five Reindeer/Caribou Symposia, two Muskox Symposia and three Arctic Ungulate Conferences. The series began with the 1st International Reindeer/Caribou Symposium held in Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1972. The 3rd International Reindeer/Caribou Symposium was held in Saariselkä, in 1982. First Arctic Ungulate Conference was arranged in Nuuk, Greenland, in 1991, and 2nd in Fairbanks, in 1995. The 10th AUC was held in Tromsø, Norway, in 1999. When returning to Saariselkä, we decided to call our meeting the “11th Arctic Ungulate Conference” to emphasize the tradition and continuity of this series.

Totally 160 delegates from 16 countries attended the Saariselkä conference and they presented more than 130 scientific papers. The scientific and social programme as well as the abstracts has been published in *Rangifer* Report No. 7, 2003.

The conference emphasized all aspects of the management and biology of arctic ungulates and especially disciplines traditionally not so well represented in this series of conferences, including animal health and welfare, predation, history and

multiple land use, management and marketing, and hunting and reindeer husbandry. So we invited key note speakers, most of who normally worked with arctic ungulates. Some of their papers are published in this volume. Some of the delegates' papers have already been issued in *Rangifer* Vol. 24, Nos. 3 and 4, 2004 and some will be published in next issues of the journal.

During the conference in evening programme, participants got information about Urho Kekkonen National Park and also about reindeer husbandry and tourism in Saariselkä area. Guided tours were made to the Sami museum, “Siida”, in Inari and to the Reindeer Research Station of the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute in Kaamanen.

The conference also included a Circumpolar PhD-Network in Arctic Environmental Studies (CAES) workshop.

The conference was sponsored by the Finnish Academy, the Nordic Council for Reindeer Husbandry Research and the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute.

In the meeting 26 August 2003, the Executive committee of the Arctic Ungulate Society agreed, that the next conference will be held in the Republic Sakha, in Russia, in 2007.

Mauri Nieminen
Chairman of the Scientific Committee